

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-6, 8, and 10, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) A composite image processing apparatus ~~for performing that includes a plurality of image processing units that perform~~ a plurality of image processing ~~units functions~~, including ~~a printer unit that performs~~ a printer function and ~~a scanner unit that performs~~ a scanner function, the apparatus comprising:

an IP address generator[.] connected to an Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) router on a network, ~~operable to that~~ repeatedly ~~acquire~~ acquires prefix information from the IPv6 router and ~~generate~~ generates a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing ~~units functions~~, and wherein a number of the ~~plurality of~~ IP addresses is equal to a number of the ~~plurality of~~ image processing ~~units functions~~; and

a controller ~~operable to communicate that communicates with a plurality of appliances at least one appliance~~ on the network using the IP addresses generated for the ~~plurality of image processing units functions and operate operates~~ each of the ~~plurality of image processing units functions to execute perform~~ communications between each of the ~~plurality of image processing units functions and the~~ at least one appliance of the ~~plurality of appliances~~, and ~~to execute that executes~~ a transfer task for transferring packet data,

wherein the transfer task for transferring packet data is managed by an Operating System (OS) using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit function and the scanner unit function, respectively.

2. (currently amended) The composite image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller executes performs the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, a plurality of control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performs the communicating communications using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions units based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions.

3. (currently amended) A control method performed by a composite image processing apparatus for performing that includes a plurality of image processing units that perform a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer unit that performs a printer function and a scanner unit that performs a scanner function, the method comprising:

an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) router on a network, repeatedly acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing units functions, and wherein a number of the plurality of IP addresses is equal to a number of the plurality of image processing units functions;

a controlling step of performing a communication with a plurality of appliances at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing units functions and operating each of the plurality of image processing units functions, so that the controlling step executes communications between each of the plurality of image processing units functions and the at least one appliance of the plurality of appliances, and an executing step of executing a transfer task for transferring packet data managed by an Operating System (OS) using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit function and the scanner unit function, respectively.

4. (currently amended) The control method of an image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the controlling step involves executing the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performing the communication communications using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image processing function one of the plurality of image processing functions.

5. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer-executable control program for implementing performing a method of controlling a composite image processing apparatus for performing that includes a plurality of image processing units that perform a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer unit that performs a printer function and a scanner unit that performs a scanner function, the method comprising:

an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) router on a network, repeatedly acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating a plurality of IP addresses, based on the acquired prefix information, wherein each of the IP addresses is unique to a different one of the plurality of image processing functions, and wherein a number of the plurality of IP addresses is equal to a number of the plurality of image processing units functions;

a controlling step of performing a communication with a plurality of appliances at least one appliance on the network using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing units functions and operating each of the plurality of image processing units functions, so that the controlling step executes communications between each of the plurality of image processing units functions and the at least one appliance are performed in the controlling step of the plurality of appliances, and

an executing step of executing a transfer task for transferring packet data managed by an Operating System (OS) using buffer areas allocated to the printer unit function and the scanner unit function, respectively.

6. (currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 5, wherein the controlling step executes the plurality of image processing functions are performed in the controlling step by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, a plurality of control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performing the communication communications using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit

a control task program corresponding to ~~an image processing function~~ one of the plurality of image processing functions.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The composite image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the IP address generator sends each generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address is a duplicate, the IP address generator generates an IP address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 3, wherein IP address generating step includes sending each the generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address is a duplicate, the IP address generating step includes generating an IP address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.